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**Variety – the Children’s Charity has Committed \$700,000  
to expand and improve care for critically ill newborns at Richmond Hospital**

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Premature and sick newborns are set to benefit from a renovated Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) complete with state-of-the-art incubators, heart monitors, ventilators and more critical medical equipment thanks to Variety – The Children’s Charity.

“We are thrilled to be involved in such an exciting project,” says Bob Stewart, Variety’s president. “By helping Richmond Hospital expand and enhance care for special needs infants, we’re helping to ensure that these newborns can be cared for in their home community, with their parents, siblings and extended families close at hand.”

These much-needed upgrades to the existing facility will double the number of beds, from three to six, and dramatically improve the hospital’s capacity to care for newborns with special needs. This includes infants who have congenital disabilities (birth defects) or infections, those who were born prematurely, and those who need to be monitored due to irregular breathing or heart rate.

“We’re all very excited,” says Lyn Jones, Clinical Resource Nurse for the Maternity and Neonatal Program. “By improving care for newborns, we’re able to give the youngest – and newest – members of our community the best possible start in life.”

The new larger unit will have space for families to bond and pediatricians and other health care professionals to meet, collaborate, and involve the parents in their baby’s care. Life-saving and life-enhancing infant-specific equipment will be at every bedside. New infection control measures, including a glassed off isolation room, will protect newborns with compromised immune systems.

Richmond Hospital is home to 1,200 births a year. On average, 10% of those infants require the specialized care provided by the NICU.

“These new renovations will do more than simply equip the hospital to meet future need,” says Lisa Westermark, Executive Director of The Richmond Hospital Foundation. “It will ensure that Richmond Hospital can provide the best possible care for newborns for decades to come.”

Established in 1987, The Richmond Hospital Foundation is a registered charity that is committed to raising money to fill the gap between government funding and the greater needs of our hospital. The foundation is governed by a Board of Trustees who represent a broad spectrum of the community.

Variety – The Children’s Charity is a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to raising funds to inspire hope, enrich lives, and build a better future for BC’s children. Variety is the

leading children's charity in the province when it comes to issuing grants to individuals and families. Variety has funded the building of child development centres and has equipped special care nurseries with fetal heart monitors, incubators, and other lifesaving equipment in major hospitals throughout the province.